

Message

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Sent: 10/7/2016 2:21:24 PM
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CC: Kyte, Larry [kyte.larry@epa.gov]
Subject: USS Lead - Press

Meeting Saturday set for residents in East Chicago Superfund site

- Lauren Cross, Northwest Indiana The Times, October 7, 2016

EAST CHICAGO — Residents living in the lead- and arsenic-contaminated USS Lead Superfund site plan to meet Saturday to continue working on plans to form a Community Advisory Group.

The meeting is set for 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the East Chicago Public Library, 1008 W. Chicago Ave.

Maritza Lopez, a member of the group We the People of East Chicago, said EPA guidelines requires a minimum of 15 people to serve as the leaders of a Community Advisory Group. The CAG will be led by individuals, not a community group, she said.

The more residents speak up and make their concerns known, the more effective the CAG can be, she said.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund site is divided into three cleanup zones — bounded by Chicago Avenue to the north, 151st Street and 149th Street to the south, the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal to the west and Parrish Avenue to the east.

The CAG will include residents from all zones.

EPA began excavation work Sunday in zone 3, which is the eastern third of the neighborhood. It plans to clean up 18 properties and part of Riley Park this construction season.

The federal agency has suspended plans to excavate in zone 1, which includes the West Calumet Housing Complex and Carrie Gosch Elementary School, because the city now plans to demolish the complex. The agency is still testing soil in zone 2, the middle part of the neighborhood.

Residents Of Lead-Contaminated Housing Complex In East Chicago File Lawsuit.

The Chicago Tribune (10/6) reports that residents living in the West Calumet Housing Complex in East Chicago filed a class action lawsuit against operators of two former lead factories, demanding that they be held "responsible for the costs incurred by residents as they've been forced from their homes because of the lead and arsenic the now-demolished factories left in the ground."

Sincerely,

Steven P. Kaiser
 Office of Regional Counsel
 United States Environmental Protection Agency

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